

Erasmus+ From Symbols to Symphonies

(Centre stage, spotlight, narrator enters stage left to podium stage left)

Narrator: From Symbols to Symphonies is a multinational project sponsored by the European Union Erasmus+ grants. The project is the culmination of 2 year's work and focuses on the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage with the theme of Human Mobility. In Germany students studied the Syrian Refugee Crisis, in Spain the plight of the Sahrawi stateless people and here in Peterborough we have looked at European immigration. We have pulled together this week despite the snow, school closures, coach and trip cancellations and we thank you for making the effort to come and watch our performance. We hope you enjoy it.

(Black stage, recording of Trump rallies 'build the wall, etc', fades into silence, images still showing of protests and banners.)

Narrator: (poems **REFUGEES – BRIAN BILSTON**)

They have no need of our help

So do not tell me

These haggard faces could belong to you or me

Should life have dealt a different hand

We need to see them for who they really are

Chancers and scroungers

Layabouts and loungers

With bombs up their sleeves

Cut-throats and thieves

They are not

Welcome here

We should make them

Go back to where they came from

They cannot

Share our food

Share our homes

Share our countries

Instead let us

Build a wall to keep them out

It is not okay to say

These are people just like us

A place should only belong to those who are born there

Do not be so stupid to think that

The world can be looked at another way

(fade to black as narrator walks off stage left)

(Music – Jimmy Hendrix Star Spangled Banner, images of war and Syria flash up momentarily then flash back to black, mixed in with Trump rally images, dancers run in jumping up and to the ground then running out both stage left and stage right.)

Syrian 1 & 2: (Poem I Flee – echoed in German)

I flee – Ich fluechte

You flee – du fluechtest

We and everybody flee – wir und alle fluechten

Because of war – vor Krieg

Because of violence - vor Gewalt

Escape of death – Flucht vor dem Tod

Escape of a dark, cruel future – Flucht vor einer dunkelen, grausamer Zukunft

No way back – Kein Weg zurueck

The fear of the way forwards – die Angst vor dem Weg nach vorn'

We are fleeing from ourselves – Wir fluechten vor uns selbst

And fleeing from others – und vor anderen.

(Stage fade to black. Fade in images of refugee journeys. Refugees move across the stage left to right, heads down, trudging. light fades to a spotlight on a child holding a teddy, sitting and crying. Images of child refugees slowly fade in and out in black and white)

Song: Did you see the boy?

Did you see the boy

lonely, crying in his bed?

Blood on his toy

Pictures in his head

But he didn't know why (x4)

His fears (they've become real)

His tears (they're his father's)

His years (they're his friends)

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His mother (she died)

His father (he tried)

But they all died

And nobody cried

Nobody cried

Oh, nobody cried (x2)

(bridge)

His fears (his fears)

His tears (his tears)

His years (nobody saw)

His mother (nobody missed)

His father (nobody kissed)

(bridge)

But we remember them (x4)

(Syrian 5 – walks on stage and takes boy by the hand, standing in line, the translation of the poem is shown in the background)

Syrian 5:

I'm just sitting

My head is hurting

I'm hearing children screaming and crying,

I see people killing and dying,

I feel the smoke of the burning homes' in my face

I'm just sitting.

Thoughts are going through my mind.

I don't want to think about what's happening.

There's nothing around me,

But everything's moving.

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I'm just sitting

In an atmosphere which is determined

By death, violence and desperation.

I'm just sitting,

No-one can see me.

I'm a prisoner of my own life;

I'm a prisoner of my own mind.

(Fade to black)

Dance – Bernado's Group (MC to give stage directions).

(Fade to black)

Song Devil's gonna make me a free man

The Devil's going to make me a free man

The Devil's going to set me free (x4)

I've been walking this road for 20 days

I've seen my fair share of hardened days

It seems that I've travelled a thousand ways

But at this point I'm lost in my maze

And we've tried so many different ways.

That I'm starting to doubt what things my father says.

Lately I've been feeling awfully cold

So this is my story here told

Shame it ends at 50 years old.

However it seems that

The Devil's going to make me a free man

The Devil's going to set me free x2

Although the people here are nice

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My solution for pain is whiskey on ice
And no matter how hard my father tries
I just want to rid of my human ties
So,

The Devil's going to make me a free man
The Devil's going to set me free x2

I've hardly time for me now
All I hear is 'Arbeit, Arbeit, Arbeit'
However I guess that's alright
But only for now
I wish I could be me somehow
But I guess my time's run out

Lately I've been feeling awfully cold
So this is my story here told
Shame it finishes at 50 years old
The Devil's going to make me a free man
The Devil's going to set me free x4

(Fade to black)

Dance – Tyler's group (MC to give stage directions).

(Fade to black)

Spain:

Narrator: The Sahrawi people are from a region of Morocco that was previously a Spanish province. Spain handed this province to Morocco in the 1960s, but the Moroccan government refuses to recognise Sahrawis as Moroccan citizens, and the Spanish government refuses to recognise them as Spanish citizens, leaving them state-less. The Moroccan government would recognise them as Moroccan if give up their Sahrawi identity, but the Saharan people feel Sahrawi and believe that the Sahrawi Republic is an autonomous nation – they won't give up their identity.

More than 100,000 Sahrawi people live in tented and primitive camps in the desert. There are little facilities and many of them travelled to Spain to try to find work and live a normal life. They struggle, especially with a new language and culture.

(Fade to black)

Song – Stone Cold (Angel) with Shadow puppetry video in background

Stone cold, stone cold
You see me standing, but I'm dying on the floor
Stone cold, stone cold
Maybe if I don't cry, I won't feel anymore
Stone cold, baby
God knows I tried to feel
Happy for you
Know that I am, even if I
Can't understand, I'll take the pain
Give me the truth, me and my heart
We'll make it through
If happy is her, I'm happy for you
Stone cold, stone cold
You're dancing with her, while I'm staring at my phone
Stone cold, stone cold
I was your amber, but now she's your shade of gold
Stone cold, baby
God knows I tried to feel
Happy for you
Know that I am, even if I
Can't understand, I'll take the pain
Give me...
Stone cold, baby
God knows I tried to feel
Happy for you
Know that I am, even if I
Can't understand, I'll take the pain
Give me the truth, me and my heart
We'll make it through
If happy is her, I'm happy for you
Don't wanna be stone cold, stone
I wish I could mean this but here's my goodbye
Oh, I'm happy for you
Know that I am, even if I
Can't understand
If happy is her, if happy is her
I'm happy for you

(Fade to black, then show tea ceremony video whilst students act out drinking)

Saharan1: The traditional Tea ceremony - Three sips, three hopes or memories – bitter, sweet, soft:

Bitter as life,
Sweet as love,
Soft as death,

Bitter as life,
With a freeing emptiness
With a consuming spiciness
With a saddening loneliness

Sweet as love,
Let pity's heart as tender be
Each valuable memory
Tying families together
With love forever

Soft as death,
There is no life after death
So now you rest
So save your breath
You are now at peace
We were lacking knowledge,
We now understand the agony.

(Fade to black)

Dance: Greta's group

(Fade to black – flags of Europe)

EUROPE

Europe Narrators: Q&A

What is immigration itself?

Immigration is liberation in most cases, because once a person migrates they begin to feel free and unchained. Of course, sometimes this could be a lie and in reality people may be feeling the same way in their new world.

Immigration is an idea that we have created and our lives would be far simpler without such a label, because immigration coincides with discrimination and when these two link it causes problems that shouldn't be there.

Instead, we should think of ourselves as people of the world rather than people of a certain region or country, this could lead us to become accepting meaning discrimination wouldn't be a problem that it is.

In all honesty, we are all immigrants, our ancestors have travelled and migrated far and wide trying to find trying to find their future family a safe home. We ourselves may not always know what has happened in our families past. You may have the blood of an immigrant.

Why does immigration happen?

There are many reasons as to why people decide to migrate, some might say that they are running away and others may say that they are seeking for something. They could be running away from discrimination and instability or they could be trying to find safety and security.

What are some problems an immigrant could face entering a new country?

Sometimes an immigrant could feel that they have escaped a hell and entered a new one. This could be because ignorant thoughts cross through ignorant minds. These outspoken individuals spread their rotting views upon others, not caring how others feel, not caring what they have gone through.

Discrimination is often hidden behind false smiles and open arms, many people think differently to their words, which may sound nice and inviting. Discrimination can be found in the lacking of equal opportunities, such as work. The inability of finding work or a future, how a person's hopes may be completely crushed and shattered.

(Fade to black – photography speech and video)

Photography story:

A family got separated from their country, they lived a happy life until the government broke them all up and shattered the family into pieces. The law enforcement broke all boundaries and raided the innocent families homes , destroying not only possessions but bonds. the families were scared , seconds turned into minutes and minutes turned into hours ,time the families could never get back . the cruel treatments and harsh rules against certain people are destroying families , friendships and all bonds.

The family were brutally transported from one country to another , not knowing where they were and being completely oblivious of where they were , what time it was , how long they have been traveling , the only thing they knew is that they had been traveling in a big crate full of people and they have been traveling for more than days . with no food ,water or any source of nutrition they were falling apart (as were the other people that were trafficked across from one country to another).

(What we nowadays and in this country celebrate as being a unique individual , in some other countries was and still is punishable and wrong . things like being of a different race or ethnicity or liking a different type of song to others or even just looking different to others pays its price in some places in the world just because the government thinks that those people will rebel against the government or destroy everything they have built.)

After countless weeks they were finally found and transported back to their country safely and back to their friends and belongings , although everything was physically destroyed , a new type of bond was growing .

Una familia fue separada de su país, ellos vivían una vida feliz antes de que el gobierno los separa violentamente. La ley rompe todos los límites y asalta las casas de las familias inocentes, destruyendo no solo las posesiones sino también los cautiverios. La familia estaba asustada, los segundos se convertían en minutos y los minutos en horas, tiempo en el que la familia no podía volver atrás. Los tratamientos crueles y las duras reglas en contra de cierta gente están destruyendo familias, amistades y todos los cautiverios.

La familia fue transportada brutalmente de un país a otro, sin saber donde estaban y siendo completamente inconscientes de ello, que hora era, cuanto tiempo iban a estar viajando, la única cosa que sabían era que iban a viajar en un gran contenedor repleto de gente y que iban a estar viajando por muchos más días sin comida, ni agua o alguna fuente de nutrición que encontrarán aparte (como las demás personas que habían sido transportadas de una ciudad a otra).

Mientras que nosotros hoy en día en nuestras ciudades celebramos como uno solo, en otros países han estado y siguen siendo castigados incorrectamente. Cosas como seguir diferenciando por razas, etnias o gustos diferentes de otros hacen que en algunos países la gente se revele contra el gobierno o destruir todo lo construido por ellos.

Después de incontables semanas finalmente ellos pudieron encontrarse y ser transportados a salvo a su país y volver con sus amigos y sus pertenencias. Todo estaba físicamente destruido. Un nuevo vínculo fue creciendo.

(Fade to black – images of EU immigrants and Roma issues)

Song: Angel's group – Hallelujah

Well I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?
Well it goes like this:
The fourth, the fifth, the minor fall and the major lift
The baffled king composing Hallelujah
Hallelujah x4

Well your faith was strong but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew ya
She tied you to her kitchen chair
And she broke your throne and she cut your hair
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah
Hallelujah x4

But baby I've been here before
I've seen this room and I've walked this floor
You know, I used to live alone before I knew ya

And I've seen your flag on the marble arch
And love...
But baby I've been here before
I've seen this room and I've walked this floor
You know, I used to live alone before I knew ya
And I've seen your flag on the marble arch
And love is not a victory march
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah
Hallelujah x4

Well there was a time when you let me know
What's really going on below
But now you never show that to me do ya
But remember when I moved in you
And the holy dove was moving too
And every breath we drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah x4

Maybe there's a God above
But all I've ever learned from love
Was how to shoot somebody who outdrew ya
And it's not a cry that you hear at night
It's not somebody who's seen the light
It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah
Hallelujah x 12

(Fade to black – images of the project and words)

Vesta: Poem: Education is a Place for Determination

But no-one understands the definition behind discrimination.

Life has many challenges to defeat, but no-one can survive.

Justice must be fought, but we are never taught to demand.

We are taught to be independent, but we can never depend on the future.

The deep feelings of loneliness is my only emotion.

If only my ocean of devotion could reflect me.

Feelings start to distinguish, our humanity starts to demolish.

We strive for change but it's out of range.

If only there was a chance, an advance for future aspirations.

What's the inspiration of life, this mystical journey that awaits us?

We drive this journey to live and to save not grave.

(Fade to black)

(Fade to black – show Brian Bilson poem part one from the opening sequence, then spin it and read it backwards with save the children video behind)

Pause (read backwards – as below)

The world can be looked at another way

Do not be so stupid to think that

A place should only belong to those who are born there

These are people just like us

It is not okay to say

Build a wall to keep them out

Instead let us

Share our countries

Share our homes

Share our food

They cannot

Go back to where they came from

We should make them

Welcome here

They are not

Cut-throats and thieves

With bombs up their sleeves

Layabouts and loungers

Chancers and scroungers

We need to see them for who they really are

Should life have dealt a different hand

These haggard faces could belong to you or me

So do not tell me

They have no need of our help

(Fade to black – then photos from the project appear and fade)

Song: Alemania

Verse 1

We're all in this place far from home
Getting told off In a language we barely know
We sat watching the rain turn to snow
In that moment I knew I didn't wanna go

Bridge

You're the one thing that's always made sense
You were there when my life got tense
When rivers and rain don't flow
You're the one thing I won't let go

Chorus

One day we'll come back to this place
See the lights if the city that we embraced
And I know that lights don't always glow
But with you I know I won't be alone

Verse 2

All of the friends we made, we'll see them again someday
They put their trust in me, telling things the world wasn't meant to see
That meant a lot you know? And I'll never let that go
Just like these memories that'll never fade away

Bridge

Chorus

Verse 3

Goddamn it was cold
Clowning round then getting told
It's too late to be outside
So we ran away to hide
We thought it was easy
And frankly it was pretty breezy
That doesn't change the fact it was the best week of my life

Chorus X3

(Fade to black)

Song: We are family (*all students come on the stage together holding hands, hugging, etc...*).

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

Ev'ryone can see we're together

As we walk on by

(Hey) and we fly just like birds of a feather

I won't tell no lie

(ALL!) all of the people around us they say

Can they be that close

Just let me state for the record

We're giving love in a family dose

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

Living life is fun and we've just begun

To get our share of the world's delights

(HIGH!) high hopes we have for the future

And our goal's in sight

(WE!) no we don't get depressed

'Cause here's what we call our golden rule

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Have faith in you and the things you do

You won't go wrong

This is our family Jewel

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up ev'rybody and sing

We are family x 6

THE END